

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on September 14, 2010 in which claims 34, 37, 38, 41-44 and 60 were allowed; in which claims 12, 26, 29, 56, 57 and 62 were objected to; and in which claims 1-11, 13-25, 27, 28, 30-33, 45 -51, 54, 55, 58, 59 and 61 were rejected. With this response, the claims are amended so as to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, claims 45-51, 56 and 62 are canceled; claims 1 and 22 are amended; and claims 63-66 are added. Claims 1-12, 13-34, 37-38, 41-44, 54-55, 57-61 and 63-66 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

I. Rejection of claims 46-51 under 35 USC 102(a) or 102(e) based upon Asakura

Section 9 of the Office Action rejected claims 46-51 under 35 USC 102(a) or 102(e) as being anticipated by Asakura US Patent 6711362. Claims 46-51 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

II. Rejection of claims 1-11, 13-15, 18-25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 45 -51, 54, 55, 59 and 61 under 35 USC 103(a) based upon Hanaoka and Asakura

Section 12 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-11, 13-15, 18-25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 45 -51, 54, 55, 59 and 61 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanaoka US Patent Publication 2006/0045595 in view of Asakura US Patent 6711362. Claims 46-51 are canceled. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of former objected to claim 56. Claim 22 is amended to incorporate the limitations of former objected to claim 62. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 13-15, 18-25, 27, 28, 30, 33 and 45, as amended, overcome the rejection and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

III. Added Claims

With this response, claims 63-66 are added. Claim 63-66 are believed to be patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Atty. Dkt. No. 200312834-1

Claim 63 constitutes former objected claim 26 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of former base claim 22. Claim 64 constitutes a former objected to claim 29 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of former base claim 22. Claim 65 constitutes former objected to claim 57 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of former base claim 22. Claim 66 constitutes former objected to claim 12 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of former base claim 1. Accordingly, each of added claims 63-66 are presented for consideration and allowance.

IV. Conclusion

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-12, 13-34, 37-38, 41-44, 54-55, 57-61 and 63-66 are now pending in this application.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Atty. Dkt. No. 200312834-1

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 10, 2010

By /Todd A. Rathe/

RATHE PATENT & IP LAW
Customer No. 22879
Telephone: (262) 478-9353
Facsimile: (262) 238-1469

Todd A. Rathe
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,276